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MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

October 10, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd and Wayne Hedberg, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining *HWS*

RE: Meeting Concerning the Reclamation of the Shootaring Canyon Mill,
Plateau Resources, M/017/016, Garfield County, Utah *HWS for DWH*

Date of Meeting: October 9, 1991
Time of Meeting: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Participants: Ken May, Roger Berg, Greg Williams, Plateau Resources; Lowell Braxton, Wayne Hedberg, Holland Shepherd, DOGM

Purpose: To discuss the Division's role regarding the pending decommissioning and reclamation of the Shootaring Canyon Mill

Plateau Resources is preparing to decommission and reclaim the Shootaring Canyon Mill. The Division has taken an oversight position in regard to this millsite and similar uranium millsites within the state, allowing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to take the lead regulatory position.

Plateau proposes to approach reclamation using one of two scenarios: 1) to remove all of @ 120,000 tons of uranium mill tailings, and contaminated materials associated with the mill to a licensed disposal facility (e.g. the White Mesa Mill in Blanding), then reclaim the site without NRC as lead; or 2) consolidate the tailings and contaminated materials on site and reclaim with NRC oversight of the areas where the disposal cell(s) are to be located.

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Shootaring Canyon
M/017/016

The Division indicated to the operator that if the NRC remains involved, we would be happy to evaluate the plan and act in an advisory capacity. If the NRC drops out, with the removal of radioactive contaminants from the site and reclamation falls back to the Division, then we would prefer to follow a more formalized procedure in processing and approving the reclamation plan.

Plateau indicated that @ 100,000 tons of low grade ore will be left on the millsite. According to the operator, the low grade ore is not considered a regulated waste by the NRC. Currently this stockpiled ore is covered with @ 2 feet of soil and overburden material.

Mr. Berg indicated that he will evaluate his options further and let the Division know what direction the company will take in the near future. He hoped to have a decision regarding onsite versus offsite disposal within the next 2 months. He also indicated that the decommissioning plan to be developed for the NRC would be copied to the Division for review.

The attached diagram depicts the mill facilities and associated tailing pond.

jb
Attachment
cc: Roger Berg, operator
Lowell Braxton, DOGM
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